



Australian Government
Department of Transport and Regional Services

File Reference: P2007/0486

Dear Aviation Colleague

Subject: Transition to satellite technology for navigation and surveillance

I am writing to you on behalf of the four Australian Government agencies involved in aviation policy: Airservices Australia, the Australian Defence Force, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority and the Department of Transport and Regional Services.

The Australian Government will soon be making a decision on a replacement system for much of Australia's existing radar and navaid infrastructure. Recent advances in the use of Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) for 'only means' navigation and the use of Automatic Dependent Surveillance Broadcast (ADS-B) for 'radar-like' services has made these two technologies viable options to advance our infrastructure into the 21st century.

The Minister for Transport and Regional Services, the Hon Mark Vaile's Australian Airspace Policy Statement, made pursuant to the *Airspace Act 2007*, sets out the Government's commitment to examine and implement technologies that can deliver safer and more efficient use of Australian airspace.

Australian Government aviation agencies are seeking comment on the proposed wider application of ADS-B and GNSS technologies. The Joint Consultation Paper (JCP) sets out the proposal, including discussion of proposed funding arrangements and regulatory changes. The Paper also discusses the surveillance and navigation requirements of the Australian aviation industry. The paper and supporting material is also available from www.dotars.gov.au.

Industry comment on this paper and the vision it sets out will be crucial to the development of a final position on the future of Australia's civil aviation navigation and surveillance systems. In particular, the feedback gained from the aviation community will assist in the finalisation of risk management and cost-benefit analysis. A copy of the current Cost Benefit Analysis is also provided for your information.

Following consideration of responses to this JCP, the four Government aviation agencies will brief the Ministers for Defence and Transport and Regional Services. The Government will then take a decision on the proposed changes to Australia's aviation infrastructure.

In progressing the proposal, the agencies will continue to employ rigorous risk management processes including application of the recently published Common Risk Management Framework to the proposal.

I thank you for your interest in this proposal and request that you provide your comments and opinion by completing the Joint Consultation Paper Response Form and returning it to DOTARS by 31 October 2007. All responses received will be published on the DOTARS website to ensure a transparent consultation process.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Mrdak', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mike Mrdak
Deputy Secretary

➤ August 2007